



Memo

To: Park Board
From: Park and Recreation Staff
Date: April 7, 2014
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for March and early April for your review.

1. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:

Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:

- a. Spring Session 1 of classes ended on April 5th. Spring Session 2 began the week of April 7th.
- b. Open gyms were well attended during March. Our attendance for pre-school and family open gyms was 138 for the week of Spring Break! Open gym numbers for March include:
 - Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS program): 705
 - Family Open Gym (Th. & Sat. Sessions): 330
 - Ages 7-up: 79
- c. Friday Night Family Open Gym for March drew 34 children plus parents on March 28. The next Friday Night Family Open Gym will be held on April 25 from 6:30-8pm. Cost is \$3 per child and parent participation/supervision is required.
- d. The 3 sessions of "Flip & Dip" during Spring Break were all full at 40 children each for a total of 120!!!!
- e. The "Active Artists" program for March had approximately 20 children participate, making St. Patrick's Day crafts!!! The program on April 3rd featured Easter and spring crafts.
- f. All available birthday party times are full for April (& have been for approximately 3 weeks)! We hosted a total of 21 parties for March.
- g. The Gymnastics Center and Foundation for Youth will be closed in observance of the Easter weekend from Friday, April 18-Sunday, April 20.
- h. Participants in the Friday Night Fun For Youth program for the Boys/Girls' Club on April 11 will visit as part of the night's activities.
- i. FFY teens visited us on Friday, April 4th.
- j. Columbus Power Elite All-Star Cheer Team resumed once a week practice on March 31 after taking a break for a few weeks. They will resume a full practice schedule the week of May 5th. They will be practicing 3 times a week. This has added approximately 3 hours per week to their schedule resulting in additional rental revenue for the Gymnastics Center.

Recreation – Events/Programs/Teens:

- a. A large crowd attended the March 28th Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree concert at Donner Center. The next show will be held in September.
- b. The annual "Kids/Teens Only Garage Sale" was held on Saturday, April 5th from 9am-1pm at Donner Center with 15 participants ages 8-18. The youth had a total of 55 tables of kid/teen oriented items to sell.
- c. Events are gearing up to start at Mill Race Park. Senior Projects are the thing right now! Mill Race was the starting point for a driving scavenger hunt on March 15th. We had two 5K Walk/Run events the weekend of March 29-30 and we will have another project on April 12.

- d. Teen Council and FFY Teens partnered to host an “open mike” night on March 29 at Foundation for Youth. Approximately 60 teens attended and many performed!
- e. Teen Council’s next event will be the 4th annual “Glow in the Dark” Easter egg hunt on April 19th at Mill Race Park. This has become a very popular event and we are expanding activities a bit this year and adding some Easter related games and a local high school DJ before the hunt gets started at dark. This hunt is designed for teens ages 13-up. We’ll have approximately 1,000 eggs with either candy or other prizes inside. Local businesses are usually very generous and give us quite a few coupons or gift certificates to use in the eggs for prizes. We’ll also have a few “golden” eggs with a coupon for a larger prize inside! This is a FREE event for local teens.
- f. Teen Council and some supporting community members are also meeting regularly to plan the 3rd annual “Glow in the Park” midnight 5K run on Aug. 1 at Mill Race Park. We hope to make it bigger and better! Over 200 participated last year.
- g. The 37th annual “Festival of the Young Child” will be held at Donner Center on Saturday, April 26th from 10am-12N. The morning features a variety of local agencies and organizations that provide programs and activities for children up to the age of 8. All booths feature information and a hands-on activity such as a game or craft. This is a FREE event and is sponsored by Parks & Recreation, Children Inc. and Child Care Answers.
- h. The annual City of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at Donner Park at 10:00am SHARP! The FREE hunt is co-sponsored by Parks & Recreation and radio 1010 WCSI. Areas will be flagged off for ages 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. Don’t arrive at 10:01 or you’ll miss it! The Easter Bunny will also be in attendance.
- i. The After Prom Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to plan the 2014 edition of the event! Volunteers are still coming in and donations are still being accepted. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so by dropping it off or by mailing it to Donner Center at P.O. Box 858, Columbus, IN 47202. This is a great, FREE event for local junior and senior students and is made possible by generous donations of time, funds and products from the parents and the local business community! 2014 marks the 65th anniversary of the wonderful event that approximately 700+ students attend each year.
- j. We hosted another themed birthday party at Donner Center on April 5th. This was a returning family who had another child’s party with us in February. They had such a good time; their older son chose to have his party with us as well.

2. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

Programs/Tournaments:

- a. We finalized information for the Fun Guide. A Special THANK YOU to Jessica Prowant for heading up the project.
- b. Spring youth soccer leagues started.
- c. Baseball teams are formed and we’ve had our coaches meeting for the upcoming season.
- d. Adult Spring Soccer and Kickball registrations continue.
- e. Adult Summer Volleyball League registration has started.
- f. Lincoln Park Batting Cages are open for the 2014 season.
- g. Prep work is underway for opening concessions.
- h. Tournaments (April):
 - o April 5-6 - USFA fastpitch
 - o April 12-13 - GameDay baseball
 - o April 19 - Rugby Big Ten Championship
 - o April 26-27 – GameDay baseball
- i. BCSC fastpitch and baseball season has started.

Athletic Facilities:

- a. The Athletic Facilities team did a great job getting the soccer/rugby facility up and going even with the nasty weather we had in February and March.
- b. BCSC fields are up and going for their fastpitch and baseball seasons.

- c. Working with East Baseball and Diamond 21 to allow the high school program to have additional home games (Freshmen).
- d. Prep work continues for the upcoming Parks & Recreation baseball season.
- e. Prep work continues for the upcoming tournament season.
- f. Working closely with other Parks & Recreation staff and Friends of Hamilton to prepare for the projects to begin on April 28. These projects will be funded with money raised through the Hamilton Center Capital Campaign.
- g. Southern Roofing Company is going strong again on the Hamilton Center Roof. Completion time will be in early to mid-May.
- h. Working with Parks & Recreation staff on Capital Project list.

Hamilton Center:

- a. March was a full month for us. We have had 16 birthday parties, with approximately 320 people in attendance. We had 8 private rentals consisting of churches and small groups for the small ice, with a total of approximately 175 people attending. We also had 8 meetings on the Patio this month with just over 100 people total attending.
 - b. HOSA, future health professionals group hosted a 5K this month, with Hamilton Center being the beginning point for registrations. They had a great turn out.
 - c. The hockey season has ended, and we are beginning our spring mite league and drop-in sessions for the squirts and bantams.
 - d. Our current session of group classes is in full swing. We have 110 skaters in this session. We have begun our group classes for the ice show. There are over 77 park and rec skaters signed up for this year's show in April. We will be wrapping up the season soon with the close of the Ice Show. Ice show tickets are now available at Hamilton for \$7.00 in advance. Tickets will be \$8.00 at the door. The Ice Show is set for April 25, 26, and 27th.
 - e. Spring Break public sessions had a great turn out, as did the Princess Tea skate. We will be continuing those as our school break activities.
 - f. Lunch time, drop-in hockey sessions are continuing to grow. We also offered drop-in speed skating over spring break.
 - g. The Speed Skating group is also growing quickly and there are more and more young skaters participating.
 - h. During the month of March we had three fundraisers including two broomball tournaments in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). Both BBBS events had a great turn out. One of the events had 60 people participate and raised \$1,237 and the other had 78 people participate and raised \$1,900! We also had an event for D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). The D.A.R.E. event brought in more than 200 sixth graders to the rink. We will be hosting this event on a yearly basis.
 - i. This March we had 8 girls from LCSC travel to Skate Cincinnati and The Louisville Invitational competitions. All of them did really well placing in the top levels. We also had 4 girls test at Cincinnati and 5 test at Dayton, all of them passing their skills tests. Way to go girls!
 - j. CYH Icemen won the Hoosier High School Hockey League, and were sent to Class 5A state where we were runner up to Culver Academy. Icemen then traveled to Nationals in Omaha, Nebraska, coming home with 1 win and 2 losses. Great job Icemen! Special note, Squirts took home the Buckeye League Championship last month!
 - k. Our Broomball team, Columbus Cutter Co-Ed Broomball team, traveled to Blaine, Minnesota for USA Broomball Nationals, and brought home second place! Seems like Hamilton Center is full of winners this month!
 - l. We are getting ready for our summer programs, finalizing our ice time. We are continuing many of our new programs, such as Stick and Puck for youth hockey and youth hockey drop in. They seem to be really taking off. We will be having many camps this summer such as Hamilton Center Hockey Camp, the Variety Camp and a Theatre on Ice Camp.
3. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:
- a. The Maintenance Crew has started opening restrooms and turning other water sources on. They also have replaced all the swing chains on the playgrounds. The crew repaired several lights at facilities and in parks.

- b. The Equipment Maintenance Crew has been working on annual maintenance projects as well as preparing equipment for the spring. They have done a great job keeping the snow removal equipment up and running this winter and now have been able to put it away for the year.
- c. The Grounds Crew has been hard at work preparing the parks for spring. They have finished all the storm damage repair and flood clean up. They have mulched the young trees and planting beds as well as placed the pre-emergent on the beds.
- d. The Cleaning Crew has been working with maintenance on opening and cleaning restrooms. They have been spending more time in cleaning shelters as the number of shelter rentals has increased. They also have been stocking supplies for the season.
- e. The Donner Center Crew has been working on replacing light fixtures in the pool locker room and in the concession stand. They have had several rentals and parties in the center to set up and clean up. The staff has also been busy with spring cleanup around the center.
- f. The FFY Crew has been working on completing all of their annual inspections. They have also been working on repairing or replacing lighting fixtures in the facility. They have been able to do this while still completing the cleaning of the building.
- g. The Commons Crew has been busy with rentals and conference meetings. One of note was the Spring Break Bounce. The sound system in the lower lobby was completed. The crew has been working with the new tenant during their build out. They have been very busy with the playground due to the various spring break weeks occurring for area schools.
- h. From my office, it has been a crazy start for 2014. We have had several challenges this winter. I really would like to take this time and thank the whole staff at Park Operations and the Facilities for their hard work.

4. Shanda Sasse reported for The Commons:

a. March Events:

- 47 non-profit meetings in our two conference rooms
- 7 rental events (2 private / 5 free to public)
- March 7th
 - First Friday's for Families had a great turn out for the *Wild Rumpus World Circus* in the Performance Hall. Approximately 450 guests attended this free event.
- March 11th
 - The Columbus Philharmonic hosted the *11th Annual Youth String Orchestra Invitational* in the Performance Hall with approximately 400 guests attending this free event.
Over 125 youth string musicians participated in the workshop and performance. The local performing groups included:
Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Strings
Central Middle School Orchestra
McKelvie String Studio
Jennings County 7th Grade Orchestra
Jennings County 8th Grade Orchestra
Jennings County Fiddle Club
Members of the Northside Orchestra
- March 21st - 23rd
 - The Commons hosted the *Spring Break Bounce* in the performance hall. This 3 day free event is new for this year and offered bounce house fun for kids 12 and under. QMIX 107.3 helped us kick off the new event with a live broadcast on Friday, March 21st. We also hosted a Spring Butterfly Garden craft table. Approximately 1,100 guests attended over the 3 days. Special thanks to Bouncer's Unlimited, Columbus Parks & Recreation Department and QMIX 107.3 for making this event a success!

- b. **Lower Lobby Sound System** - The installation of a new sound system in the Lower Lobby stage area is finished! Clear Sound Design finished installation and provide the

Commons A/V technicians with a training session on Monday, March 30th. The new sound system will provide permanent and convenient access for groups utilizing the lower lobby stage area for their events.

- c. **Jordy McTaggart's** – Construction continues for the new restaurant. New flooring and several other interior updates have been completed so far.
- d. **Food Service Space #108** – The RFP for this space is currently posted. Proposals are due back to the Columbus Redevelopment Commission by Monday, May 19th, 2014. A For Lease sign was created and will be displayed at this location through the RFP due date.
- e. **Looking Ahead** – April is lining up to be a busy month of event rentals at the Commons.

5. April Williams' reported the following for Project, Resource Development:

a. Current projects:

- Continue working with the Hamilton Center Project Campaign Committee. Working with David Doup and Steve Risting to determine timeline and cash flow for projects and stewarding private funding.
- Continue to attend the Arts District Coalition Team and Urban Infrastructure Team Meetings as a committee member.
- Attended the Arts Council's Six Sigma team meeting to share the People Trail Project and consider the potential for displaying art throughout the People Trail as an attraction for residents and visitors to our City.
- Continue to work with AmeriCorps member and Cummins CIT Leader, Brad Stroia, in implementing the "Adopt A Trail" Program to assist with maintenance of our People Trails. Establishing an "Adopt a Park" Program to assist in the maintenance of Parks. Planning our first Adopt A Trail clean-up on May 12th in coordination with May Bike Month and also to prepare Jonathan Moore Pike trail for the Mayor's Bike to Work Day on May 16th. Other areas of the trail system will also be assigned to volunteers. Volunteers will be provided by Cummins, Bicycle Station, IUPUC and more.
- Planning Tour de Trails Events: April 19th is the Tour de Trails 8k/5k Run Walk and Kids Fun Run and May 17th is our Bicycle Challenge. We hope you and your friends/family will join us. All proceeds assist in underwriting maintenance costs for our People Trail Network. Working with our local radio stations to promote the event.
- Working with Heather Pope, Kelly Wilson, IUCA+D, CAMPO, and the Urban Infrastructure Team in planning the Downtown Riverwalk Trail project. We will be presenting the proposed plan to all committees in the near future, including Board of Works, for coordination/cooperation in moving forward. This is a very exciting project as it will not only bring contiguity to the existing trail system, but it will allow safe and more efficient access to those using alternative transportation, connecting them to downtown. As indicated from meetings with Cummins teams, this is of great interest to Cummins as it will improve the efficiency of travel time for employees between Cummins locations. Additionally this Riverwalk section will help to improve our opportunity to create a scenic view along the River and with the cooperation of IUCA+D will incorporate art in the design. The art will be visible to those traveling into the City as they cross the Mayor Stewart Bridge. The plan is for this to be an artistic signature, attracting guests to our City.
- Working with Heather Pope on the Downtown Trail, Phase 1 section to define easements, through the Redevelopment Commission, for the City owned properties (four parcels of 2nd Street properties) to construct a multi-use trail continuing from the existing Haw Creek Trail ending at State Street to Lafayette.
- The Race2play investor meeting was held on March 12th at 3:30 at Donner. Investors came up with many ideas to enhance the Parks & Recreation resources offered to the residents of 9th Street, Morningside and Pence. We will be implementing ideas to plan for the anniversary celebration of Race2play and other activities to remain engaged in the neighborhoods.

- Visited and toured our People Trail network with the Ohio River Greenway Director and intern. They are gathering data to create a manual of maintenance costs/needs for trails throughout the state with the objective of eventually creating a funding source for cities to pursue for assistance.
- Working with 5th Street Yoga owner to plan a fundraising event entitled *Yoga in the Park*.
- Beginning to plan the 3rd Annual Sneakers At Starlight event in September.
- Applied for National Parks & Recreation's KUDOS Marketing Award and Partnership Award. Announcements will be made in June.
- Attending Community Advisory Council for CAMPO to educate stakeholders in a complete transit system.

Thank you for your service!

April Williams

c: Mayor Kristen Brown
Councilman Dascal Bunch
Jeff Logston
Parks & Recreation FT Employees